

CI AC 446.1 (5) SHELF

ANNUAL REPORT

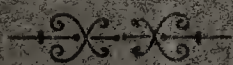
OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Shelf Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1914.



BY

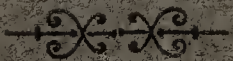
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Licentiate in Sanitary Science,

(Diploma in Public Health)

Fellow Royal Institute of Public Health,

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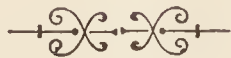


HALIFAX:

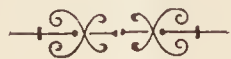
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Medical Officer's Report.



SHELF, FEBRUARY, 1914.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of this District for the year 1914, founded upon Statistics and Inspections made.

Area of District and Population.—The area of the district is 1303 statute acres, and I estimate the population as 2,400.

Births.—There were 27 births registered during the year, consisting of 11 males and 16 females, giving a birth-rate of 11·25 per thousand, which is almost the same as last year.

Deaths.—The total deaths during the year were 44, giving a yearly death-rate of 18·33.

Infantile Mortality Rate.—Only 1 child died under one year of age.

CANCER.

A Circular on the prevention of Cancer was published and distributed. This Circular was forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health of all the large towns and had a very favourable reception from them. The American Society for the control of Cancer also ordered it to be issued to the Chief State Officers of Health in America and also Canada.

WATER.

The supply is obtained from Bradford Corporation through a local company. The lease has expired and other arrangements are now under consideration. It is to be hoped that there may be an early decision, and one which will afford a more constant supply and give better pressure. In the past the supply has been intermittent at times, which, in view of the long lengths of lead pipes common in the district, and the fact that the water is of peaty origin, increases the liability to lead poisoning. The following Report was made to the Council:—

There exists at the present time in Shelf some alarm owing to rumours of “lead poisoning” arising from the water supply, but where short lengths of lead piping are used such fears are groundless, and there is no justification for the waste of water which is taking place. No lead has been found to be in any samples of water taken from these pipes, and no symptoms observed of “lead poisoning” in any person drinking water from them. There is no *epidemic* of “lead poisoning” in your district such as I have seen in other districts, as evidenced by the general presence of “blue line” on the gums, “lead colic,” &c., &c.

In houses, however, supplied by pipes above the average length I have found lead in the water and symptoms of “lead poisoning,” and from these it is evident that the present water supply contains some peaty acid and so

is acting too freely upon pipes. Until such pipes are removed the water should be drawn in the evening for use the next day, and if possible, filtered. The remedy is threefold: (1) The water supply must be constant and not intermittent, which has very often happened; (2) Long lengths of lead pipes must be replaced by iron-lined, with protective solution and "Health pipes" used where possible; (3) Acid water having lead-dissolving properties must be declined.

But though the water from short pipes contains no lead and that from long ones has in solution over $\frac{1}{10}$ of a grain per gallon, producing obvious symptoms of "lead poisoning," what about those persons using the water through medium lengths? These suffer in time from Anæmia and its consequences, e.g., *decaying teeth* (which in turn produce septic indigestion and gastric ulcers), owing to poor blood supply and loss of resisting power against the microbes which produce decay.

Apart from years of practical observation, I have, in my quest for the "blue line" of lead on people's gums, during the past month, inspected the inhabitants of rows of houses without being able to find one sound set of teeth in an adult! More than this, almost all above 17 years of age show early symptoms of incipient decay!

Beyond all dispute decaying teeth are the chief breeding centres of the microbes of most diseases.

Here then is a most urgent vital question of national importance, affecting especially the masses of Yorkshire and most of Lancashire, which imperatively demands the appointment of a Commission of enquiry. This country's teeth were never in such a shocking state as they are at present! There are but two chief causes in action, one of which I have just named, whilst the other is to be found in the fact that the "Staff of Life" is made of white flour from which has been abstracted most of the nutritious value of the grain. Such soft bread gives the teeth no work to do, so according to the natural law, they decline as being "no longer necessary." Soft foods also rapidly ferment.

In consequence of one or both of these two factors thousands of men anxious to respond to their Country's call have been refused as recruits because their teeth were bad, and so they would have been taken ill on the battlefield!

England cannot get the necessary number of soldiers because the water they drink wants protecting and filtering at its source, and because the flour is deprived of its necessary nutritive properties to suit the ignorant demand for "pure white flour!!!

The Council have decided to urge the use of "Health Pipes" so soon as the new arrangements in regard to the Water Supply are completed. These pipes which are *steel or lead* lined with block copper are cheap, have no action from peaty water, and are satisfactory in every way. Five Deaths from Bright's Disease in Shelf in the past year and the frequency of Organic Heart Disease and Apoplexy is very noteworthy, having regard to the past history (plumbo-solvency) of the water.

EXCREMENT OR REFUSE REMOVAL.

The Ashpits are emptied by Contract four times a year, the district being divided into parts, and separately contracted for. The whole is under the control of your Sanitary Inspector.

ROADS AND LIGHTING.

Quite good, and the dust nuisance nothing like as bad since the tar spraying.

HOSPITAL.

Depends entirely on the needs of Halifax. They will take any of our cases if they have room, but it was found impossible to send a case of Scarlet Fever to Hospital this last year, for there was no room.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

Adopted and came into force in May, 1896. Measles was added to the list of Notifiable Diseases in July, 1898.

BYE-LAWS.

They were adopted on Nov. 5th, 1901 ; approved by the Local Government Board Nov. 28th, 1901. They may now require revision.

VACCINATIONS.

Not many are done.

DRAINAGE.

The whole district now is efficiently drained and sewerred, as explained in a recent Annual Report.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

There are three mills in the District, one of which is divided into three factories. When trade is normal they together employ seven or eight hundred hands.

The spinning of yarns and manufacture of cloth is the staple trade carried on.

Their general condition is satisfactory.

Lumbrook Mill is an old mill, situated on the borders of Shelf, Northowram and Halifax.

It is provided with fire escapes, chemical apparatus in the rooms, and also water buckets.

Whitewashing is done every fourteen months.

The number of employed is as follows:—

WINDING ROOM: 20,328 cubic feet, 4 males (ventilation—open windows.)

HAND-LOOM WEAVERS: 20,328 cubic feet, 10 males ;
3 females.

MENDERS : 20,328 cubic feet, 28 females.

1 privy for each sex provided in these rooms.

No. 1 SHED—WEAVING: 124,608 cubic feet, 7 males ;
37 females.

No. 2 SHED—FINISHING AND TWISTING: 297,000 cubic feet, 26 males ; 4 females.

No. 1 and No. 2 Sheds use the same conveniences, one provided for each sex.

The Sheds are ventilated by ventilators and open windows.

COMBING ROOM: 39,853 cubic feet, 2 males; 4 females.

WARPING ROOM: 56,840 cubic feet, 3 males; 3 females.

Combing Room use same conveniences as No. 1 and 2 shed.

Warping Room use same conveniences as No. 1 Spinning Room.

NO. 1 SPINNING ROOM: 56,840 cubic feet, 15 males
25 females.

NO. 2 SPINNING ROOM: 56,840 cubic feet, 12 males;
20 females.

DRAWING ROOM: 58,464 cubic feet, 2 males; 14
females.

One privy for each sex in these rooms.

The privies are newly constructed, detached from the main building, and provided with through cross ventilation.

About 221 persons are at present employed, many of these live out of the District.

The lighting and ventilation are good.

The Bradford and Halifax water mains are close to the mill.

A Finishing Department has been added, and Settling tanks have been provided to deal with the trade refuse.

Clough Mill.—Clough Mill is a modern stone-built mill. It is provided with an up-to-date stationary fire-engine, with lengths of hose to get to any part of the building.

Buckets are hung in the respective rooms.

White-washing is done every fourteen months.

Settling tanks have been provided to deal with their trade refuse. All waste water from washing and scouring departments is run into tanks. The fat is broken up by the addition of vitriol, and is cleaned out and refined. This ought to practically pay for itself.

The rooms are large, well lighted and ventilated.

Number employed:—

No. 1	ROOM,	101,300	cub. ft.:	2	females;	11	males.
No. 2	„	96,800	„	41	„	19	„
No. 3	„	96,800	„	28	„	7	„
No. 4	GARRET,	70,000	„	16	„	3	„

One privy for each sex is provided in these rooms.

WEAVING SHED, 220,605 cub. ft.: 60 females; 4 males.

Four privies are provided for females in this Shed; one privy for males.

WARPING ROOM, 44,784 cub. ft.: 5 females; 8 males.

WEFT ROOM, 24,600 cub. ft.: 1 female; 3 males.

PIECE ROOM, 57,000 cub. ft.: 28 females; 2 males.

One privy provided for each sex in these three rooms.

BLACKSMITH SHOP, 13,900 cub. ft.: 3 males.

OFFICES, 9,300 cub. ft.: 6 males.

TWISTING ROOM, 25,500 cub. ft.: 14 males.

SIZING ROOM, 19,200 cub. ft.: 2 males.

FINISHING SHED, 147,900 cub. ft.: 12 males.

All the Privies have been connected into W.C.'s, 18 in all.

Shelf Mills are a large stone building, roughly forming three sides of a square. It was partially rebuilt, part of it being destroyed by fire.

It is divided into three factories, under three different firms. The largest, a firm of worsted spinners, employ about 250 hands. The other two firms employ about fifty each.

No. 1 ROOM, OLD MILL, 54,756 cub. ft.: 3 males; 25 females.

No. 2 „ „ 50,193 „ 9 „ 20 „

No. 3 „ „ 50,193 „ 10 „ 17 „

No. 4 „ „ 32,760 „ 6 „ 15 „

There is one water closet in each of these rooms for each sex.

SPINNING ROOMS, NEW SHED, 43,776 cub. ft.: 6 males; 18 females.

One privy for each sex.

SPINNING ROOM, OLD SHED: This is divided into two, Air Space 87,360 cub. ft., 30 females; 10 males.

The other portion, 111,016 cubic feet, 30 females; 7 males.

There are four privies in this room, kept exclusively for the use of the females.

One urinal erected outside.

MECHANICS' SHOP, 8,720 cub. ft.: 3 males.

CARDING ROOM, 8,720 „ 3 „

RULING ROOM, 5,340 „ 7 females.

WASH HOUSE, 27,946 „ 20 males.

COMBING ROOM, 43,776 „ 6 males; 18 females.

One privy for each sex in this room.

There are three privies in the yard, which are used by about 30 males. There are also two urinals.

WEAVING SHED : 77,025 cub. ft., 15 males ; 35 females.

The mill is white-washed every fourteen months, well lighted and ventilated and is supplied in case of fire with ample lengths of hose-pipe, unions, &c., chemical apparatus, and water buckets.

Workshops.—In the District the Workshops on the register are as follows :—Dressmakers and Milliner, 3 ; Wheelwright, 1 ; Bootmakers, 2 ; Shoeing-smiths, 1 ; Steam Laundry, 1 ; Plumbers, 1 ; Joiners, 2 ; Tailors, 1.

All these are in a satisfactory condition.

Bake-houses (1).—Satisfactory.

Slaughter-houses (6).—Satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.—One Tannery, in good condition.

D.C.M. Order.—This is yearly making itself felt. Farmers are beginning to realize that they will get better results, the more hygienic the conditions are under which they keep their cows. Fresh air and cleanliness—the latter particularly—is very hard indeed to instil into the minds of the older school of farmers. This matter is all the more important in view of the latest pronouncement of Professor Sims Woodhead and others, that Surgical Tuberculous *e.g.*, tubercular disease of glands, bone and joints is chiefly of bovine origin (milk).

A register is kept of Cow-keepers.

In conclusion, I have to thank your Inspector, Mr. Alfred Riley, for his unfailing kindness.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to be

Your obedient servant,

J. ASPINALL MARSDEN.

Table 1.—FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Populat'n estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor- rected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate.	of Non- Residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate.					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1909	2500	34		13.2	31	12.4		1	3	96.7	32	12.8
1910	2500	36		14.4	33	13.2		2	5	135.8	35	14.0
1911	2334	33		14.13	35	14.9		2	4	121.2	37	15.8
1912	2334	32		13.71	21	8.9		2	2	95.2	23	9.8
1913	2350	33		13.66	29	12.34		3	2	66.2	36	15.3
1914	2400	27		11.25	48	20.0	10	6	1	37.03	44	18.33

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... } 1303.

Total population at all ages ...
 Number of inhabited houses ..
 Average number of persons per house

2400
 648
 3.6 } At Census
 of 1911.

Table II.—For Whole District.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	AT AGES. YEARS.
		1 to 45.
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	1	1
Erysipelas	2	2
Scarlet Fever	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	4

Isolation Hospital :—By arrangement with Halifax.

Table III.—For Whole District.**CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1914.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	At all Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and up- wards.
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis	2	..	...	...	2	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	6	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Bronchitis	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia	5	1	..	...	1	...	2	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Congenital Debility and Malformation, in- cluding Premature Birth	1	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
Other defined Diseases	11	...	1	...	...	...	...	10
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	38	2	1	1	3	2	10	19

Transferable Deaths—

- (1). 9 Halifax Residents died of Tuberculosis at the Halifax Sanatorium in Shelf, viz.:—

15—25 6

25—45 1

45—65 2

9

A woman aged 70 from Brighthouse, died from Angina Pectoris, at Shelf.

- (2). 6 Residents died out of the District, viz.:—

Male 63, Ulcer of Leg—Debility.

„ 59, Heart Disease.

„ 9, Abscess in Lung.

„ 38, Fracture of Skull (Inquest).

„ 55, Hæmorrhage into Brain (Inquest).

„ Septic Pneumonia from Accident (Inquest).

Table IV.—For Whole District.**INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING YEAR 1914.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	3 months and under 6 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Convulsions 	1	...	1
	1	...	1

Nett Infant Births in the year—Legitimate, 26.
 Illegitimate, 1.

Nett Infant Deaths in the year—Legitimate, 1.
 Illegitimate, *nil*.

Transferable Deaths, 1914. Shelf Urban District.

When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex and Age.	Occupation.	Cause of Death.	Usual Residence (Postal Address).	Area of Provis'l Assign-ment.	Area of Final Assign-ment.
			FIRST	QUARTER OF NONE.	1914.		
			SECOND	QUARTER OF	1914.		
11th June, Poor Law Hospital ...	Abraham Pickles ...	M. 63	Boiler Maker, Journeyman ...	Ulcer Leg Debility ...	Carr House Lane, Shelf ...	75	Shelf, No. 641
7th April, Union Workhouse, Clay-ton ...	Jas. L. Laycock ...	M. 59	Elementary Schoolmaster...	Morbus Cordis ...	Brookfarm, Cooper Lane, Shelf	75	Shelf, No. 645
9th May, Royal Infirmary ...	Arthur Stephenson...	M. 9	Son of Harry Stephenson, Presser ...	Abscess in Lung	2, Cheapside, Shelf Moor, Shelf ...	75	Shelf, No. 646
13th June, Royal Infirmary ..	Edward C. S. Francis	M. 38	Telephone Wireman... ..	Fracture of Skull Inquest ...	16, Shelf Moor, Shelf ...	75	Shelf, No. 647
			THIRD	QUARTER OF	1914.		
21st August, in Westgate, near Royal Infirmary, Bradford ...	Ephraim Barracough	M. 55	Carter.. ..	Natural Causes namely from Hemorrhage into the Brain. Inquest . . .	11, Green Lane, Shelf ...	75	Shelf, No. 1228
	Not	YET	FOURTH TO HAND FROM	QUARTER OF THE REGISTRAR	1914. GENERAL.		

Transferable Death occurring in Halifax Urban District.

When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex and Age.	Occupation.	Cause of Death.	Usual Residence (Postal Address).	Area of Provis'l Assign-ment.	Area of Final Assign-ment.
2nd Nov., Poor Law Hospital, Halifax	Jonas Longbottom ...	M. 83	Retired Farmer	Septic Pneumonia having accident burnt his hand whilst filling a Paraffin Lamp. Inquest	Shelf Hall Farm, Shelf	75	

SHELF URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health :—J. ASPINALL MARSDEN.

Sanitary Inspector :—A. RILEY.

WATER SUPPLY—

- Any developments during 1914 ?—*See Report.*
- Any insufficiency, and where ?—*No.*
- Any curtailment ?—*Higher parts of District short of pressure.*
- When and for how long ?—*No.*
- Did any wells fail, and where ?—*No.*
- Any unsatisfactory quality, and where ?—*No.*
- Any unchecked plumbo-solvent action ?—*See Report.*

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—

- Any Developments during 1914 ?—*No.*
- Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers—*No.*
(b) Improvement of defective sewers—*None.*
- Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells ?—*No.*
- No. of Sink Wastes disconnected during 1914—9.
- Trapped—6.
- Proportion of Sink Wastes still needing disconnection—7.
- Untrapped—7.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

- No. of Privies with open Middens—2.
- No. of Pail or Tub Closets—7.
- No. of Privies with covered Middens—406.
- No. of Water Closets—73.
- No. of Waste-water Closets—1.
- Are proper doors and coverings generally provided ?—*Yes.*
- No. of Privies re-constructed during 1914 (a) as w.c.'s—2. (b) Other—*None.*
- No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1914 (w.c.'s)—1.
- No. of Closets constructed in 1914 for new houses (a) (w.c.'s)—1.
(b) Other—*Goux Tub.*

SCAVENGING—

- How is refuse disposed of—Tips—*Disused Quarry.*
- Total Annual cost—£80.
- Is there any inadequacy, and where ?—*None.*
- Any change during 1914 ?—*No.*

NUISANCE INSPECTION—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1914—95.

Informal Notices served—8. Complied with—8.

Total Number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1913—4.

„ „ at close of 1914—4.

Total Number of Nuisances reported during 1914—25.

„ „ abated during 1914—25.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Condition?
Offensive Trades.. (Tannery)	1	1	5	Tannery, Good

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades,
e.g., Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc.—*No.*

SCHOOLS—

No. of Elementary Schools in District—2.

No. of visits to Schools—*Visited when required.*

Action taken—*No closing of Schools necessary—Frequent correspondence with Teachers.*

MILK SUPPLY—

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows—*None.*

No. of animals notified by Police during 1914 under Tuberculosis Order,
1913—*None.*

No. of Cowkeepers in district—39. No. registered—39.

No. of Milksellers who are also Cowkeepers—18. No. who are
Purveyors only—*None.* Total No. registered—18.

Total No. of Cowsheds—39. No. of Inspections in 1914—39.

General condition—*Fairly good.*

Approx. No. of Milch Cows in District—249.

Any insufficiency in Milk supply—*No.*

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—*No.*

OTHER FOODS—

No. of Slaughter-houses— . No. registered— . Kind and condition—
Stone Buildings (good).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

Any Smoke Nuisance, and where?—*None.*

No. of Smoke Observations taken—3.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1914?—*None.*

Any Urban Powers obtained in 1914?—*No.*

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS—

Any adopted during 1914 ?—*No.*

Are any other Byelaws needed ?—*Not at present.*

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES—

What Diseases have been specially prevalent in 1914 ?—*None.*

What special action to combat same ?—*Schools visited.*

TUBERCULOSIS—

1. Inspection of patient's home and workshop ?—*Yes.*
2. Examination for contacts ?—*Yes.*
3. Disinfection ?—*Yes.*
4. Distribution of advice leaflets ?—*Yes.*
5. Action re spitting ?—*Advice given.*
6. Shelters provided ?—*None.*
7. Is sputum examined ?—*Yes.*

MISCELLANEOUS—

Number of Burial Grounds—*4.* Any need for extension ?—*No.*

Are there any ill-placed fowl runs in District ?—*No.*

Any nuisance therefrom or action in relation thereto ?—*No.*

SANITARY STAFF—

What is present salary of M.O.H. ?—*£20 per annum.*

Name of Sanitary Inspector—*Alfred Riley.*

Annual Salary as Inspector—*£30.*

Other appointments held—*Surveyor of Highways.*

Salary for such other appointments—*£72 16s.*

Any Assistants—*No.*

Is Staff sufficient ?—*Yes.*

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1914—

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1913—

Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts)—*2.*

Houses inspected under the Act and Regulations in 1914—*194.*

Houses found satisfactory on inspection—*194.*

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1914—

Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts)—*8.*

Name and address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ?
—*Alfred Riley, 17, Cooper Lane, Shelf.*

OTHER ACTION IN REGARD TO HOUSING—

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where?—*No.*

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where?—*No.*

No. of New Houses built during 1914 (*a*) Working-class dwellings—*None*
(*b*) Other—*1.*

Any working-class dwellings erected during 1914 by Sanitary Authority?—*No.*

Are Sanitary Authority contemplating erection of working-class dwellings?—*No.*

TOWN PLANNING—

Any scheme prepared during 1914? If so, give details—*No.*

Any scheme contemplated? If so, for what area?—*No.*

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES—

Factories (including Factory Laundries)—Inspections, *20.* Written
Notices, *1.*

Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)—Inspections, *6.*

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORK-
PLACES—

Sanitary Accommodation, unsuitable or defective—*1.*

3.—HOME WORK—

Wearing Apparel—Making, &c.—*1.*

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS—

Dress Makers and Milliners, *3.*

Wheelwright, *1.*

Boot Makers, *2.*

Shoeing Smith, *1.*

Steam Laundry, *1.*

Plumber, *1.*

Joiners, *2.*

Tailor, *1.*

Butcher, *1.*

Total number of workshops on register, *13.*

Signed—

J. ASPINALL MARSDEN,

February 15th, 1915.

Medical Officer of Health.





